

NEWS RELEASE



***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney
Carol C. Lam***

For Further Information, Contact: Assistant U. S. Attorney Christopher P. Tenorio (619) 557-7843

For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - May 13, 2005

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam and Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights R. Alexander Acosta announced the conviction in United States District Court in San Diego of GUILLERMO ROMERO-FLORES and GUADALUPE VENTURA. A federal jury returned verdicts today convicting Romero-Flores and Ventura of two counts of Harboring Aliens, and two counts of Harboring Aliens for Purposes of Prostitution. The jury also convicted VENTURA of one count of Bringing in an Alien for Financial Gain, and one count of Transporting an Alien for Purposes of Prostitution.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Christopher P. Tenorio, who handled the government's prosecution along with Civil Rights Division, Department of Justice Trial Attorney Marcia Jackson, the evidence at trial established that Romero-Flores and Ventura harbored illegal aliens in the United States in order to profit from their services as prostitutes.

United States Attorney Lam stated, "We are gratified that the jury saw these men for what they are – criminals who took advantage of vulnerable victims."

"Harboring another human being for prostitution and financial gain is morally reprehensible," said R. Alexander Acosta, Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division. "This is nothing less than modern day slavery and the Justice Department is committed to aggressively investigating and prosecuting those who would perpetrate these crimes."

The case was the product of a joint investigation by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

ROMERO-FLORES and VENTURA are scheduled to appear before United States District Court Judge Thomas J. Whelan for sentencing on August 22, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.

DEFENDANTS

Case Number: 03CR3347

Guillermo Romero-Flores

Guadalupe Ventura

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Counts 1 & 2 8 U.S.C. § 1324(a)(1)(A)(iii) and (v)(II) (Harboring Aliens, and Aiding and Abetting)
Maximum penalty: 10 years; \$250,000 Fine

Counts 3 & 4 8 U.S.C. § 1328 & 18 U.S.C. § 2 (Harboring Aliens For Purposes of Prostitution, and Aiding and Abetting)
Maximum penalty: 10 years; \$250,000 Fine

Count 5 8 U.S.C. § 1324(a)(2)(B)(ii) & 18 U.S.C. § 2 (Transportation of Illegal Alien for Financial Gain, and Aiding and Abetting)
Minimum penalty: 3 years
Maximum penalty: 10 years; \$250,000 Fine

Count 6 18 U.S.C. § 2421 & 18 U.S.C. § 2 (Transportation For Purposes of Prostitution, and Aiding and Abetting)
Maximum penalty: 10 years; \$250,000 Fine

AGENCIES

Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation